BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.

INTERIM REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1947.

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Medical Officer of Health—John Cleminson, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H. (Resigned September 30th, 1947).

Acting Medical Officer of Health—R. Baring Davidson, J.P., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F P.S., Barrister-at-Law, Member Royal Sanitary Institute. (October 1st until December 31st, 1947).

Senior Sanitary Inspector—Harold Street, Cert. R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—Leslie G. Hopes, Cert. R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector—James E. Holden.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Congleton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year 1947 upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Congleton.

The Report is again issued in curtailed form, as instructed by the Ministry of Health.

The health of your district remained satisfactory throughout the year.

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J. Cleminson was released from the Army in January after an absence of nearly four years; but in September he left to take up his new appointment of Divisional Medical Officer to the National Coal Board. He has asked me to convey to you his appreciation of the co-operation given to him by the Council and Officials while he held office.

I am honoured by your having appointed me in Dr. Cleminson's stead.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

The customary notes on social conditions are not requested by the Ministry of Health for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Estimated population ... 14,930

Births

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Live births	Legitimate	...	314	151	163
	Illegitimate	...	24	10	14
Still births	Legitimate	...	10	5	5
	Illegitimate	...	1	1	0

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid. 1947 22.6

Live birth rate for England & Wales per 1,000 of the population 20.5

Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 31.5

Still birth rate per 1,000 total population 0.73

Still birth rate for England & Wales per 1,000 total population 0.50

Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths of infants is shown as follows:—

				Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	...	...	13	6	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2	1	1

This gives an infantile mortality rate of 44.4 per 1,000 live births.

Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales 41.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 41.4

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 83.3

Deaths

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths, all ages ...	...	...	204	101	103

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population 13.6

Death rate for England & Wales per 1,000 of the population, 12.0

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year :—

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	0	0	0
Scarlet fever ...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	1	1	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	6	6	0
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	2	1	1
Syphilitic diseases ...	1	0	1
Influenza ...	0	0	0
Measles ...	1	1	0
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	0	0	0
Acute influenzal encephalitis ...	1	0	1
Cancer of buc. cav. and œsoph (M) uterus (F) ...	3	2	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	8	4	4
Cancer of breast ...	2	0	2
Cancer of all other sites ...	13	7	6
Diabetes ...	4	3	1
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	25	10	15
Heart disease ...	56	22	34
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	4	1	3
Bronchitis ...	16	8	8
Pneumonia ...	5	2	3
Other respiratory diseases ...	1	1	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	1	0	1
Diarrhœa under 2 years ...	1	0	1
Appendicitis ...	1	1	0
Other digestive diseases ...	4	3	1
Nephritis ...	3	2	1
Puerperal & post-abortion sepsis ...	0	0	0
Other maternal causes ...	1	0	1
Premature birth ...	7	3	4
Congenital malformation, birth inj., infant dis. ...	4	2	2
Suicide ...	2	2	0
Road traffic accidents ...	1	1	0
Other violent causes ...	4	3	1
All other causes ...	26	15	11
Totals ...	204	101	103

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :—

		No. of Deaths
Puerperal Sepsis	...	0
Other Maternal causes	...	1
Total	...	1

The Maternal Mortality is 2.8 per 1,000 live and still births.

The statistics for the year are satisfactory and there does not appear to be any occupation having a prejudicial effect on health.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

No change took place in these services during the past year. The facilities at present available appear to be adequate.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supplies—The present supply of water to Congleton of twenty-six gallons per head per day is still inadequate in quantity. During 1947 there have been no new sources of supply. Final approval of the Ministry has been given to the scheme for delivery of about one million gallons per day from bore-holes at Hug Bridge. If the present delay in delivery of materials is maintained it appears unlikely that this scheme will come into operation before 1952. In order to increase the supply in the meantime however, it is proposed to sink additional well points at Forge Lane which will result in delivery of about another 60,000 gallons a day.

It is estimated that during 1947 about 1,500 of the population received water from the public supply. A few scattered houses mainly on Congleton Edge have their own supplies from springs, but a public supply should become available to them after completion of the Hug Bridge Scheme.

At present the water of Congleton is obtained mainly from shallow wells and springs. Although bacteriological and chemical tests have proved satisfactory, these sources are liable to contamination. Chlorination of the Forge Lane supply is therefore continued and is considered to be a necessary precautionary measure.

Water is obtained at present from the following sources:—

(1) Forge Lane, consisting of a series of shallow wells from which water is drawn into three collecting tanks. From there it is pumped, after chlorination into two towers with a total capacity of about 310,000 gallons. About 400,000 gallons per day are delivered by this source.

(2) Corda Well supply, from two springs and three shallow wells, yielding 8,000 gallons daily. Apart from sand filtration of part of this supply no further treatment is carried out.

(3) Cloudside supply from six springs yielding about 10,000 gallons per day is untreated.

(4) Buglawton Borehole, which yields about 80,000 gallons per day under artesian pressure. The water is soft with a pH of 5.2. Plumbo-solvency is corrected by the addition of Soda-ash raising the pH to 7 or over.

Analysis—Three samples from each source of supply were forwarded to the County Analysts for bacteriological and chemical examination during the year. All were reported on as being of high organic purity and wholesome bacteriological quality.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Extensions of the existing sewerage system have been carried out during the year to meet the demands of housing estate development at:—

Rood Hill Estate, 96 houses (now completed).
Waggs Road Estate, 22 houses.
West Heath Estate, 38 houses.

After further consideration of the proposal to sewer the West Heath area of the town, the Council have now decided to extend the scope of the originally contemplated scheme, and have sought advice on the

possibility of establishing a new Outfall Works, together with the general extension of the town's sewerage system. The Consultant's report is now awaited.

At the Sewage Disposal Works, samples of the "Final Effluent" and the Storm Water Effluent periodically analysed by the County Authorities have not always proved satisfactory. The present Outfall Works cannot now cope with the daily flow of sewage.

Public Cleansing.—The Resolutions of the Council of the previous year to effect various improvements in the organisation of the refuse collection service have not, as yet, been implemented, apart from the provision of a second refuse vehicle, which is now in full use.

Existing arrangements will continue as regards the collection and disposal of Butchers Offals and diseased meat; whilst in the outlying Buglawton area pails and house refuse continue to be collected weekly.

During the year, 2,934 tons of refuse have been collected and disposed of.

The Local Salvage Scheme still continues in active operation and during the year a marked increase in the collection of waste paper has still further improved the tonnage per population figure. The total of salvage materials collected and disposed of during the year is as follows:—

		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	Value £	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	129	12	0	0	801	11	11
Rags	...	2	0	3	0	28	10	6
Kitchen Waste	...	121	3	0	0	196	4	5
Bones	...	2	0	0	18	10	10	6
Iron (scrap) and Metal	...	1	7	0	0	4	1	0
Jars	...	2	8	0	0	6	2	6
Bottles and Jars (mixed)	...	1297½ dozen				73	12	1
Total	...	258	10	3	18	£1,120	12	11

Closet Accommodation :—

Number of conversions from pails to W.C. during 1947 ...	2
Number of conversions from slop closets to pail closets during 1947	0
Number of pail closets in built-up areas	200

Sanitary Inspection.—44 statutory notices were served by the Sanitary Inspector and 33 were complied with during the year. 764 informal notices were served and 621 were complied with during the year.

Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. Rodent Infestation Order, 1943 :—

Acting in conjunction with the County Scheme of administration a Rodent Operative, appointed by the Council has carried out treatment of infested premises. This work is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

During the year under review a survey was made of all premises in the area and treatment of infested premises was carried out under a scheme approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The treatment of sewers and water courses was carried out with the co-operation of the Borough Surveyor's Department.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The customary table of activities under the Housing Acts is omitted.

Owing to the restrictions on Housing activities imposed on the outbreak of hostilities, the housing position in the Borough of Congleton is very serious and still constitutes the main problem facing the Corporation during the present time.

The figures on overcrowding, based on the 1936 survey and given in previous reports are obviously now incorrect. Many additonal cases must be added from a large number of insanitary houses already scheduled for future action and also from houses otherwise satisfactory, where overcrowding is present.

309 visits were paid to premises in connection with the issuing of Licences under the Control of Civil Building—Defence Regulation 56A.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

Milk Supply :—

Number of visits paid to cowsheds	42
Number of visits paid to dairies...	46
Number producing "Accredited" Milk, 8 of whom are retailers	30
Number producing Tuberculin tested milk	3
Number of licences issued to distributors of Pasteurised milk	1
Number of licences issued to dealers in respect of Tuberculin tested milk	7

During the year 1947, 188 samples of milk were taken from Producer Retailers and submitted to the "Resazurin" Test. From the point of view of clean milk production, the results have again proved of great assistance to all concerned in this important branch of Public Health work. The sampling and testing is carried out in co-operation with the Cheshire School of Agriculture, Reaseheath, and forms part of the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.

15 informal notices were served with respect to cowsheds and 4 with respect to dairies. All these notices were complied with.

Ice Cream.—

During the year the Minister of Health issued "The Heat Treatment Regulations," under which manufacturers were given the option of manufacturing their own ice cream by a process of heat-treatment followed by cooling or of manufacturing from a "Cold-mix" ice cream powder to which water only is added. Two manufacturers gave an undertaking to purchase and instal the necessary equipment. The remaining manufacturers are using the "Cold-mix" method.

Number of visits to Ice Cream premises 18

Meat and other Foods.—

Total amount of meat destroyed ... 64,597 lbs.

Approximately 48% of this meat was taken from casualty animals and the total weight destroyed also includes all offals. Killing is done here not only for the Borough, but also for a large portion of the Congleton Rural District, and other districts.

No cases of food poisoning were notified.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

There was an epidemic of Measles during the early part of the year, 392 cases with one death having been notified in Congleton.

There was only one case of infantile paralysis in spite of the wide-spread epidemic of this disease which occurred during the late summer and autumn.

There were four cases of diphtheria with one death in a case where the child's parents had previously refused to allow immunisation to be done.

The following tables show the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the past year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the total number of deaths from each of these diseases :—

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1947

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	38	35	0
Diphtheria	4	4	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	0
Whooping Cough	15	0	0
Measles	392	0	1
Pneumonia...	22	2	5
Erysipelas	2	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	0	0

Age Distribution of Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ...	1	0	1	4	1	18	8	2	2	1	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	4	4	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ...	24	39	59	39	51	167	7	3	2	1	0	0
Pneumonia ...	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	5	3	3	4
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following table shows the extent to which the immunisation scheme has been used during the year :—

Number of children immunised, under school age... ...	92
Number of children immunised, of school age	11
Number of children given a reinforcing injection ...	4
Total number of children immunised since the inception of the scheme in 1939	2,971

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

Age Periods	New Cases				Mortality			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Femal	Male	Female	Male	Female
Up to 1 yr. ...	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
1-5 ...	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
5-15 ...	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0
15-25 ...	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
25-35 ...	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
35-45 ...	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
45-55 ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-65 ...	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65 and upwards ...	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Totals ...	8	1	4	4	6	0	1	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Four Certificates have been granted during 1947 in respect of adequate means of escape in case of fire, under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

The following tables on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, give details of inspections and cases where defects were found :—

1. ***Inspections*** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	No. of Inspect-ions	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	135	632	48	nil.
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order 1938	—	—	—	—
(b) Others ...	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	135	632	48	—

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were		Number of cases in which defects were Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	36	36	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient ...	4	4	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	6	5	1	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home-work) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	48	47	1	—	—

My thanks are due to the Sanitary Inspector and the Surveyor for their help in compiling this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

CYRIL DOVE CORMAC,

Medical Officer of Health.